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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM HUTCHINSON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You have called us to be creative thinkers. You endowed us with a thinking brain so we could think Your thoughts after You. That's awesome, Father, You are omniscient. You know everything. You also know what is best for our future as a Nation. This is Your land; we are Your people; we are a Nation under Your sovereignty. In response, we make Proverbs 16:3 the motto for this day, "Commit Your works to the Lord and Your thoughts will be established." Throughout the day, we will intentionally submit the work of this Senate to You, seek Your guidance, and claim this promise for clarified convictions in keeping with Your will. A profound peace invades our souls as we say with the psalmist, "I commit my way to the Lord and trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass * * * I rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him."—Psalm 37:5,7. Speak to our minds, Lord, we are listening. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 16, 1998.

TO THE SENATE: Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HUTCHINSON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President Pro tempore.

Mr. HUTCHINSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at the request of the majority leader, I am pleased to make the following announcement concerning the schedule of the Senate today.

This morning, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the agriculture appropriations bill. It is expected that Senator GRASSLEY will offer an amendment which will be considered by the Senate. Following disposition of the Grassley amendment, it is hoped that Members will come to the floor to offer and debate any remaining amendments to the agriculture appropriations bill so that the Senate can complete action on this legislation by early afternoon.

Following disposition of the appropriations bill, the Senate may resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill or begin the legislative branch appropriations bill. The Senate may also consider any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

Therefore, Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day and into the evening during today's session.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume S. 2159, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2159) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Christy May Carlson, an intern in my office, be allowed on the floor during today's debate on the legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

AMENDMENT NO. 3172

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate concerning appropriate actions to be taken to alleviate the economic effect of low commodity prices)

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), for himself, and Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. BOND, proposes an amendment numbered 3172.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 67, after line 23, add the following:
SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF LOW COMMODITY PRICES.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Congress should pass and the President should sign S. 1269, which would reauthorize fast-track trading authority for the President;

(2) Congress should pass and the President should sign S. 2078, the Farm and Ranch Risk

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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